TOP SECRET

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NOTES RE ARMS SUPPLY TO ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL, FOR UK-UK DISCUSSIONS - MAY 17, 1951

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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TS AUTH REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

A. Nature of U.S. Arms Aid Program:

Program is primarily a political weapon designed to strengthen the several Arab states and Israel; to improve their political and economic stability and to increase their will and ability to resist penetration by the USSR.

B. Arms Supply - Cash and Grant:

1. U.S. arms aid must be in accord with statutory requirements; i.e., President must find arms so furnished contribute to the security of the U.S.

2. It must be assured that arms will not be used contrary to Bilateral Agreements with U.S. (i.e., Tripartite Declaration protected).

3. Impartiality consistent with strategic considerations must be preserved between the Arab States and Israel.

4. Impartiality will have to be preserved in character of arms supplied.

5. Arms aid should be associated with political quid pro quos that are of general benefit to the West in the Cold War; for example, the British effort in Jordan and the U.S. at DAI must be conceived as of general benefit to the West.

6. Arms aid must be handled so that the countries of the area will not neglect expenditures on economic and social betterment.

7. Arms aid can be accorded only in response to a governmental request; i.e., governments must be prepared to back their military in making requests.

8. Governments receiving U.S. aid must abide by all MDA requirements re inspection and supervision of end use.

9. Any arms aid will be within the framework of a correlated program for each country; clandestine purchases of extra arms will affect receipts.

10. Procurement assistance is the most valuable part of the program since global arms requirements will continue to exceed availabilities.

11.

11. To conform to U.K. and French practice as well as to save U.S. funds and effort the rule will be cash reimbursable assistance: U.S. grant aid will be employed to achieve general Western political objectives: U.S. Grant arms aid will be a supplement.

12. Types of existing arms will be important factor in the supply of new arms.

13. To avoid inter-country jealousies in the area re arms aid, detailed country programs will be made known only to the countries receiving the aid and in the US-UK-France correlation process.

14. Arms supply of all kinds from the US, UK or France should be susceptible of being shut off at short notice in the event of developments contrary to the Tripartite Declaration, coups d'etats or riots.

C. Correlation of Arms Supply:

Principal suppliers of arms will be the UK, France and the US. To meet the above criteria (including the criteria imposed by US legislation) a tripartite system of correlation is required. This system should not be publicized and should work so far as possible under cover.

The functions of such a tripartite system would be:

1. A means for sharing information regarding the armaments of the Arab States and Israel.

2. To provide for consultation on US, UK, and French plans to fill arms requirements of individual countries on either a cash or a grant basis. Advance knowledge of plans will:

   (a) Avoid embarrassments.

   (b) Permit arms supplies to be fitted into programs of other countries.

   (c) Permit consideration re character of arms.

   (d) Help prevent over-expenditures on arms by individual states.

3. Keep records of arms supplied.

4. Be the system to assure arms are not used contrary to tripartite declaration.

5. Focal point for emergency shut-off of arms supplies (see Criterion 13, above)

Such a system would not possess authority to stop arms supply by any of the three members; it would endeavor to operate on the grounds of common sense and honest dealing between members. Instances of serious dispute would be referred to governments for diplomatic handling.